RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, NEUCHATEL - QUARTERLY REPORT

DIVISION : PROCESS DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT TITLE : CARAVAGGIO

PERIOD COVERED : APRIL - JUNE 1990

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KEYWORDS : caravaggio, comas, puffing, expansion, et

OBJECTIVES

Development and evaluation of the Comas puffing process as a potential expansion process for cut filler.

STATUS

Following the visits by Process Development personnel to Comas (Treviso, Italy) for inspection of their stem puffing process, it was decided that the process could have potential as an expansion process for cut filler. Thus, in week 22, this project was initiated to develop and evaluate the concept.

Two sets of trials were conducted at Comas (week 25) using Marlboro cut rag and ETNA feedstock from Bergen op Zoom. Each of the materials was conditioned to a range of moisture levels (20 - 50% OV) and run at corresponding processing temperatures to produce a final target moisture of 13% OV. One "special" test was conducted in which the Marlboro cut rag was conditioned to about 30% OV, followed by the addition of approximately 10% of rolled cut stems, also at 30% OV. The purpose of this test was to determine whether the system would possibly act as a dryer for the cut rag and as a puffing unit for the stem while the materials were in a blend.

For all of the tests, there were minor material flow problems (feeder design, moisture meter calibration) due to the fact that the system was designed for processing stem instead of filler. However, in general, the trials were conducted as designed. Currently, the processed materials have been returned to Neuchatel for analysis. Reference materials (Marlboro rag exit dryer, ETNA) were also obtained from Bergen op Zoom for comparison.

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PLANS
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Complete physical, chemical, and subjective comparison of the Comas processed tobaccos versus the Bergen op Zoom references.

Based on the above results, make recommendations concerning further development/evaluations of the process.

S. Robert Wagoner

RWA/vag/July 6, 1990
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